

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01

AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01

SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /177 W
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P 161200Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2457
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 937

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MR SS SP MO AG

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: GIRM CALLS FOR CONSULTATIONS
WITH ALGERIA AND MOROCCO

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 900

1. SUMMARY: IN WAKE OF INCREASING TENSIONS OVER SPANISH
ADMINISTRATION OF SPANISH SAHARA PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HAS
CALLED FOR TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS IN NOUAKCHOTT JULY 20
FOR THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.
GIRM FONMIN MOUKNASS HAS ALSO CONFIDENTIALLY TOLD SEVERAL
AMBASSADORS HERE THAT GIRM WOULD SUPPORT THE RETENTION,
FOR SEVERAL YEARS, OF SPANISH MILITARY FORCES IN ANY INDEPENDENT
SPANISH SAHARA TO ENSURE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF NEW NATION.
END SUMMARY.

2. BEFORE DEPARTING NOUAKCHOTT JULY 15 FOR FIVE DAY VISIT TO
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NIGERIA WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH FONMIN MOUKNASS CALLED

IN MOROCCAN, ALGERIAN AND SPANISH AMBASSADORS. ACCORDING TO SPANISH EMBOFF FONMIN TOLD SPANISH AMBASSADOR:

(1) PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HAS CALLED FOR A MEETING JULY 20 OF ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA TO RENEW TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS ON THE STATUS OF THE SPANISH SAHARA BEGUN AT NOUADHIBOU IN 1970 AND CONTINUED AT AGADIR IN 1973; (2) GIRM DOES NOT SUPPORT MOROCCAN CLAIM TO SPANISH SAHARA OR FRANCHISE FOR REFUGEES IN ANY SELF-DETERMINATION VOTING; (3) GIRM STILL CLAIMS TERRITORY OF SPANISH SAHARA BUT CONTINUES SUPPORT IMMEDIATE SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH UN SPONSORED PLEBICITE; (4) IF SPANISH SAHARANS CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE GIRM WOULD SUPPORT RETENTION, FOR SEVERAL YEARS, OF SPANISH MILITARY FORCES THERE TO ENSURE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE NEW NATION (FYI FRENCH CHARGE SAID HE ALSO WAS APPRAISED OF THIS NEW GIRM POSITION BY FONMIN.)

3. SPANISH DIPLOMATS HERE BELIEVE KING HASSAN HAS BADLY MISJUDGED HIS SUPPORT. THEY REASON THAT MOROCCAN INSISTANCE

THAT ANY SELF-DETERMINATION PLEBICITE CONFIRM MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SPANISH SAHARA IS COUNTER TO RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY OAU AND UN. SIMILARLY THEY SEE MINIMAL SUPPORT WITHIN ARAB LEAGUE EXCEPT FOR TUNISIA, LEBANON (SIC) AND POSSIBLY SAUDI ARABIA. THE ONLY EVENTUALLY SPANISH EMBOFFS FORSEE UPSETTING PRESENT INTERNATIONAL "SUPPORT" FOR SPAIN WOULD BE COMBAT BETWEEN REGULAR MILITARY FORCES OF SPAIN AND MOROCCO. THEY BELIEVE THAT SPANISH MILITARY WOULD NECESSARILY CARRY FIGHT TO MOROCCAN SOIL THUS PRESENTING ARAB LEAGUE AND OAU WITH FOREIGN INVASION OF ARAB/AFRICAN SOIL. NEVERTHELESS SPANISH EMBOFFS DO NOT SEE KING HASSAN PROFITING FROM ANY COORDINATED ARAB/AFRICAN SANCTIONS AGAINST SPAIN. THEY SAY SUCH PRESURE WOULD SIMPLY HASTEN INDEPDNDENCE, NOT MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SPANISH SAHARA.

4. COMMENT: GIRM SUPPORT FOR A CONTINUING SPANISH PRESENCE IN ANY INDEPENDENT SPANISH SAHARA TENDS CONFIRM EMBASSY READING THAT GIRM WOULD PREFER STATUS QUO (PARA 4 REFTEL). THIS PREFERENCE STEMS FROM GIRM FEAR THAT DEPARTURE OF SPANISH COULD RESULT IN A COMMON MAURITANIAN-MOROCCAN BORDER OR MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN WARFARE OR BOTH.
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